

sport, but is shot at by all and sundry. In the Gardens, they settled on the shore, less than 15 yards from where we sat and chatted. Mr. R. K. Lahiri, the very active Superintendent, sent some people round the lake, who put them up by banging tins and shouting. When all the birds were in the air, they literally filled the sky and reminded one of the duck shoots of the good old days. Mr. Lahiri said that he had made various attempts to estimate their numbers, and thought there were some 6000 birds. They returned to the lake after a few minutes and were soon settled in peace. Later when we were not paying any particular attention there was a gigantic splash on the lake. My first impression was that the birds had all risen again, but when we looked there were no birds in the air and only a few remained scattered here and there on the lake. It then dawned upon me that the birds in one part of the lake, say 50 yards by 100 yards, had all dived together. Lahiri said that this was a not unusual reaction to a bird of prey overhead, but none was visible. The teal soon reappeared and kept on opening their wings, probably to shake off the water. The simultaneity of their dive was something to be seen to be believed. Other ducks take off the water as suddenly but, since they remain visible in the air, the effect is not so startling. In the evening, I saw flight after flight, 15 to 30 at a time, going over the city, mostly high up and out of gunshot. Outside the sanctuary, they are no tamer than elsewhere. Whistling Teal do migrate locally and their numbers at the Zoo are said to vary from time to time. This appears to be an excellent place where they could perhaps be captured and ringed.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
BOMBAY 3,  
February 23, 1965.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

### 3. THE RED KITE *MILVUS MILVUS* (LINN.) IN ORISSA

A large flock of this species was repeatedly observed over several days by Sálím Ali (1954) during March 1945 on the Little Rann of Kutch. Shivraj Kumar (1964) saw a single individual on 23.iii.64 in Saurashtra: We have similar evidence that its range extends to the east coast of India, at least in winter.

On 8.i.63 near the shore off Balugaon on Lake Chilka we saw a soaring kite which, by reference to Peterson *et al.* (1954) on the spot, we identified as *Milvus milvus*. We discovered from Ripley (1961) that this identification was unlikely. Neither of us had seen the species in any other country. On 19.i.64 we accompanied Dr. Bernhard Rensch to Puri where he recognized *M. milvus* with complete certainty, being

familiar with it in Europe. He is of course familiar with living birds not only in India but in many other parts of Asia, and his certainty was unshaken by Ripley's statements.

GENETICS AND BIOMETRY LABORATORY,  
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA,  
BHUBANESWAR-3,  
February 23, 1965.

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#### 4. OCCURRENCE OF THE LONGTOED STINT *CALIDRIS SUBMINUTUS* (MIDDENDORFF) IN NORTH BIHAR

Three species of stint, our smallest wader, winter in India. Out of 145 stints collected in Monghyr District, north Bihar, for ringing between 23 November 1964 and 17 January 1965, 34 were Little Stints *Calidris minutus* (Leisler), 109 Temminck's Stints *C. temminckii* (Leisler), and 2 Longtoed Stints *C. subminutus* (Middendorff). The presence of the last is of particular interest as it has not been previously recorded from Bihar. The range of the Longtoed Stint as given in Ripley's SYNOPSIS (1961) is: 'On winter migration, occurs in Assam, East Pakistan and Ceylon'. The present record represents a westward extension of the winter distribution of this eastern Palaearctic breeder. The measurements (in mm.) of the specimen preserved, in the Society's collection bearing Register No. BNHS 22181, are: wing 89; tail 35; bill (from the skull) 21; middle toe 23.

In the hand, the Longtoed Stint can be easily distinguished from the other two by its long middle toe, 22.5 to 25 mm., while in others it is less than 20 mm. The middle toe with claw is longer than the tarsus in *subminutus* while in *minutus* and *temminckii* it is more or less equal. *Subminutus* also has a longer hindtoe (5 to 6 mm.) which in *temminckii* and *minutus* is shorter (3 to 4 mm.).

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June 10, 1965.

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